

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): A medical image reading system comprising a plurality of diagnostic clients provided with an image output means which outputs image data to be examined as a visible image, and a diagnosis input means for inputting individual diagnoses obtained on the basis of visible images, at least one management client provided with a result output means for outputting result of examination obtained on the basis of the individual diagnoses, and a server provided with an image storage means and a result storage means which are connected to the diagnostic clients and the management client by way of a network, the image storage means storing image data to be examined and the result storage means storing results of examination obtained on the basis of the individual diagnoses with the results of examination related to the image data, wherein each of the diagnostic clients receives a same image data to be examined from the server by way of a network, outputs the same image data to be examined through the image output means and sends individual diagnoses input through the diagnosis input means for the respective images represented by the same image data to be examined to the server by way of the network, the server causes the result storage means to store results of examination obtained on the basis of the individual diagnoses sent from the respective diagnostic clients, and the management client receives the result of examination from the server by way of the network and causes the result output means to output the same.

2. (previously presented): A medical image reading system as defined in claim 1 in which

said server is further provided with an informing means which, when the server receives a predetermined number of said diagnoses, sends information to the effect that the server has received a predetermined number of said diagnoses to the management client and the management client is provided with an information receiving and output means which receives the information and outputs the same.

3. (original): A medical image reading system as defined in claim 1 in which said server further comprises an automatic determination means which automatically makes examination for a given piece of image data on the basis of all or part of the individual diagnoses received and outputs result of examination.

4. (currently amended): A medical image reading system as defined in claim 3 in which, each of the diagnostic clients is provided with a function of sending data on the doctor in charge together with the relevant individual diagnosis to the server so that the automatic determination means obtains weight information for the doctor in charge, the weight information stored in the server, and makes examination weighting the individual diagnoses according to the doctor in charge.

5. (original): A diagnostic client for a medical image reading system defined in claim 1 which client is connected by way of a network to a server provided with an image storage means which stores image data to be examined and a result storage means which stores results of examination obtained on the basis of the individual diagnoses, and comprises a data receiving means which receives the image data to be examined from the server, an image output means

which outputs the image data to be examined as a visible image, a diagnosis input means for inputting individual diagnoses obtained on the basis of visible images, and a data sending means which sends the individual diagnoses input through the diagnosis input means to the server.

6. (original): A diagnostic client as defined in claim 5 in which said data sending means sends data on the doctor in charge together with the relevant individual diagnosis to the server.

7. (original): A management client for a medical image reading system defined in claim 1 which client is connected by way of a network to a server provided with an image storage means which stores image data to be examined and a result storage means which stores results of examination obtained on the basis of the individual diagnoses, and comprises a data receiving means which receives results of examination from the server, and a result output means which outputs the results of examination received by the data receiving means.

8. (original): The management client as defined in claim 7 in which said data receiving means is further provided with an information output means which receives information to the effect that the server has received a predetermined number of said diagnoses from the server and outputs the same.

9. (original): A server for a medical image reading system defined in claim 1 which server is connected by way of a network to a plurality of diagnostic client and at least one management client and comprises an image storage means which stores image data to be examined, a data sending means which sends the image data stored in the image storage means

to the diagnostic clients, a data receiving means which receives from the diagnostic clients individual diagnoses obtained on the basis of the image data to be examined, and a result storage means which stores results of examination obtained on the basis of the individual diagnoses with the results of examination related to the image data to be examined, wherein said data sending means is further provided with a function of sending to the management clients the results of examination stored in the result storage means.

10. (original): A server as defined in claim 9 in which said data sending means is further provided an information sending means which sends to the management client information to the effect that the server has received a predetermined number of said diagnoses.

11. (original): A server as defined in claim 9 in which said data sending means is further provided with an automatic determination means which automatically makes examination for a given piece of image data on the basis of all or part of the individual diagnoses received and outputs result of examination.

12. (original): A server as defined in claim 11 in which said data receiving means receives data on the doctor in charge together with the relevant individual diagnosis from the diagnostic client, and the automatic determination means makes examination weighting the individual diagnoses according to the doctor in charge.

13. - 16. (canceled).

17. (previously presented): A medical image reading method comprising the steps of storing image data to be examined in a server which is provided at a place remote from a plurality of diagnostic clients and connected to the diagnostic clients by way of a network, causing each of the diagnostic clients to receive a same piece of image data out of the image data stored in the server and to output the same piece of image data as a visible image, inputting individual diagnoses obtained on the basis of the output visible image through the diagnostic clients, sending the individual diagnoses to the server, storing in the server results of examination obtained on the basis of the individual diagnoses sent thereto with the results of examination related to the pieces of image data, and causing a management client to receive the result of examination for a desired piece of image data stored in the server and to output the same.

18. (original): A medical image reading method as defined in claim 17 further comprising the step of causing the server, when the server receives all the diagnoses, to send information to the effect that the server has received all of said diagnoses to the management client.

19. (original): A medical image reading method as defined in claim 17 in which the result of examination is weighted by individual diagnoses.

20. - 72 (canceled).

73. (new): The medical image reading system according to claim 1, wherein the result of examination is a composite diagnosis based on each diagnosis of the individual diagnoses.

74. (new): The medical image reading method according to claim 17, wherein the result of examination is a composite diagnosis based on each diagnosis of the individual diagnoses.

75. (new): The medical image reading system according to claim 1, wherein the server further comprises a composite diagnosis generating means for generating a composite diagnosis based on the result of examination obtained on the basis of the individual diagnoses.